

Appl. No. 10/540,943  
Amdt. dated August 6, 2008  
Reply to Office action of Feb. 6, 2008

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-17. **(Canceled)**

18. **(Currently amended)** A fuel filter, ~~in particular a diesel filter~~, comprising  
at least one fuel inlet (2),  
at least one fuel outlet (3),  
~~water separator means a means for separating water from the fuel,~~  
at least one sump (4, 32, 44, 51) for collecting the water separated from the fuel,  
a water outlet (5, 41, 52) associated with the sump,  
control means (6) for the water outlet (5, 41, 52), and  
means, mounted onto the fuel filter downstream of the water outlet, for separating  
contaminants from the water to be drained off from the sump.

19. **(Currently amended)** The fuel filter according to claim 18, ~~further comprising a filter~~  
~~for cleaning the fuel, in which wherein said means for separating water from the fuel~~  
includes a filter element which also cleans contaminants from the fuel and wherein the  
sump is associated with the clean side of the filter element.

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20. (Currently amended) The fuel filter according to claim 18, ~~further comprising a filter for cleaning the fuel, in which wherein said means for separating water from the fuel includes a filter element which also cleans contaminants from the fuel and wherein the sump is associated with the dirty side of the filter element.~~

21. (Currently amended) The fuel filter according to claim 18, ~~wherein the means, mounted onto the fuel filter downstream of the water outlet, for separating contaminants from the water to be drained off from the sump further comprising comprises an activated charcoal filter (54), for filtering the water to be drained from the sump (51).~~

22. (Currently amended) The fuel filter according to claim 19, ~~wherein the means, mounted onto the fuel filter downstream of the water outlet, for separating contaminants from the water to be drained off from the sump further comprising comprises an activated charcoal filter (54), for filtering the water to be drained from the sump (51).~~

23. (Currently amended) The fuel filter according to claim 20, ~~wherein the means, mounted onto the fuel filter downstream of the water outlet, for separating contaminants from the water to be drained off from the sump further comprising comprises an activated charcoal filter (54), for filtering the water to be drained from the sump (51).~~

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24. **(Currently amended)** The fuel filter according to claim 18, wherein the means, mounted onto the fuel filter downstream of the water outlet, for separating contaminants from the water to be drained off from the sump further comprising comprises a water absorption and evaporation unit, open to the environment, downstream of the water outlet (4).

25. **(Currently amended)** The fuel filter according to claim 24, wherein the water absorption and evaporation unit has a container (11) open to the environment in an upper region.

26. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 24, wherein the water absorption and evaporation unit has an absorbent material (12).

27. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 25, wherein the water absorption and evaporation unit has an absorbent material (12).

28. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 26, wherein the material (12) at least partly comprises an absorbent paper.

29. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 26, wherein the material (12) is at least partly sponge-like.

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30. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 24, wherein the water absorption and evaporation unit has a large evaporation surface area.

31. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 18, further comprising chemicals for binding the contaminants, which are provided in the sump and/or in a chamber downstream of the water outlet.

32. **(Currently amended)** The fuel filter according to claim 18, further comprising a controllable valve (46, 53) ~~is~~ located at the water outlet ~~(5, 41, 52)~~.

33. **(Currently amended)** The fuel filter according to claim 18, further comprising a valve (43, 46) located at the water outlet actuated by a floating body (42).

34. **(Currently amended)** The fuel filter according to claim 18, further comprising a pump at the water outlet ~~(5)~~.

35. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 34, wherein the pump is a volumetric pump.

36. **(Currently amended)** The fuel filter according to claim 18, further comprising at least one water level sensor (7, 8, 31, 33, 34), located in the region of the sump (4, 32, 44, 51), for controlling the water outlet ~~(5)~~.

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37. **(Previously presented)** The fuel filter according to claim 36, further comprising two water level sensors (7, 8, 31, 33, 34).